



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

SINCE 1947

MAKING FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor. Some articles may be copyright.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur. Please check the Club web site at



<http://www.scdxc.org>
Repeater: W6AM/R
145.48,(-) 100Hz PL

NCDXF #4171

USING THE MAGIC OF RADIO



THE INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION VISALIA
SINCE 1949

August 2008

THE SUMMER BASH

Come one come all to the SPRINGS in Orange.

Sunday August 24, 2008

1300 hrs

to

1700 hrs

Wayne and Sharon Spring

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Orange, Ca 92866

See the web site for directions

<http://www.scdxc.org>

QRX

An introductory editorial from your interim editor.

We all know what QRX means. My definition is, “wait a minute.” In the context of this editorial it asks you to pause a minute and consider what the Southern California DX Club means to you. I’m undoubtedly a traditionalist when it comes to worthwhile institutions and the effort it takes to keep them worth everybody’s time and attention. I think a club newsletter or BULLetin as it used to be called is the glue that keeps this organization together. (I liked BULLetin because it gave readers warning that some of the writings that followed might be a bit like hearing how you fared in the last big pileup.)

I liked the BULLetin when it came in the mail. I still print mine out when it appears because I like to be holding paper when I read something. It’s a rare day, wherever in the world I am, that I don’t get a newspaper and read it. I don’t get my news from television because I know how superficial that medium is, and I certainly don’t get it from the Internet which has little if any reverence for accuracy. I like newspapers because they have a lot of writers reporting, interpreting, and editorializing, and you know their names. On TV you know the names of the anchors (newsreaders is what the Brits and others call them, more accurately) but you don’t know who’s really writing and interpreting what you see on TV. On the Internet, the writer’s name is often fictitious and so is his story.

So here’s the deal with the Southern California DX Club newsletter or whatever we get around to calling this incarnation of it. It needs a lot of writers as well as a lot of readers. This is a club with a huge tradition and a big reputation nationwide and probably even worldwide and it won’t survive if 5% of the members do 100% of the work.

So, Skip, I’d like an article from you about your hairiest tower experience. Bob, N6OX, I’d like an article from you about what motivates you to go on countless DXpeditions. Same from John, WA7CQQ. (STEVE, MOMENTARY BRAIN FART HERE. IS THIS JOHN’S CALL?) I’d like to hear from Arnie about what it’s like to be the MD on DXpeditions and what you think about in advance? From W8DX I’d like an article about his new career teaching science to what one book author calls “The Dumbest Generation.”

I’d like this publication to have unique writings not often seen in QST, CQ, DX Magazine, WorldRadio and the rest. Everyone, absolutely everyone, can write an article about what got them interested in ham radio.

I also want to reprint articles that have shown up elsewhere that our readers may not have seen, such as the one from ZL1AA in this issue. If you come across a great article in an obscure publication, bring it to my or W6NRQ's attention. I'd also like to distribute this bulletin to all other editors and publishers of ham publications with blanket permission to reprint whatever they want, just giving us credit.

Steve, W6NRQ, has done a great job keeping this publication alive while he's been going through some tough personal times and the rest of us for the most part sat on our hands. Time for us to get up off our hands and get them together and give Steve a big round of applause as he transitions from Editor/Publisher to Publisher – the person responsible for the layout, getting the officers' reports in on time, laying the publication out and getting the information in your hands by the first of every month.

73, Dave, W6AQ

THE VEEP

Sorry for the lack of V.P. input but have been extremely busy.

Last month's meeting had a presentation by John Kountz on his trip thru Afghanistan. Hopefully he will be able to set up a schedule so we can make contact with him on his next trip. I will keep you posted as I find out any information.



The speaker for August will be John Haslett K16MCB doing a presentation on his exciting rafting trip on which he used amateur radio. This should be an exciting presentation from all the feedback I have heard on his other presentations!

Don't forget to enjoy the snacks set up in the back of the room to enjoy during break and while talking about the presentation of the night.

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets! New raffle ideas have been suggested so look for new items in our raffle.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting on Thursday Aug. 14th!

73 Everyone...

Tom Paquette N6OT

THE PREZ SEZ

It's hard to believe that this year is more than half way over. The best we can ask for is that it has been good. My personal answer is, "YES!" Anytime that I can walk, talk, and not be on a respirator is considered good. So, I am now ready to proceed through the rest of this year.

For those of you who participated in Field Day, I hope your scores were good and you enjoyed yourself. For the limited period of time I was on 15 meters, the airway was quiet. Do not have the total scores yet, but I was told W6ZE did very good once again.



We have a celebrity member in our club. Arnie Shatz, N6HC just returned from Fargo, No. Dakota. While there he participated in their local field day activities. An article was written in their local newspaper containing interviews from Mark Johnson, president of the Red River Radio Amateurs club, and Rod Stoa, mayor of Tower City. Rod Stoa had just earned his radio license six months before, and was instrumental in making available their excellent field day location. Rod is also a member of the Fargo ham radio club. The article stated that not only locals gathered for this event, but also a "worldwide traveler and radio enthusiast," Arnie Shatz, participated. A picture of Arnie sitting at his CW station with his laptop and headphones was included.

Mark Johnson insists that ham radio technology is overlooked in the modern society. He was talking primarily about cell phones, email, etc. and the role they play in communicating internationally. He said that for licensed professionals, one of the thrills of this hobby is the notion that when all other forms of communication are unavailable, ham radio operations will still be fully functional. He said field day is training for hams when called upon for help during times when normal communications are disabled. Mark also said he likes the challenge. "It's neat to be able to string up a piece of wire and be able to talk to someone 2,000 miles away without the help of billions of dollars of wires and cables buried underground." Mark also said that his club made more points than ever before, mostly due to Arnie and the multiplier from his Morse code. "Good Show, Arnie!!

Don't forget the annual "Summer Bash." Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 24. The San Diego club already is planning their trip north. This is the time each year, other than Visalia, that we get together with their club to eat, drink, and talk ham radio. There are hams in their club, as in ours, that have been around for many years. These guys have DX stories that can amaze you. In a sequestered environment, like the IRD's home, you can capture these few in a one-on-one and ask them to tell their stories. How better can that be? Look on the SCDXC website for more information and directions. Sharon, K6IRD

SCDXC,

On this past Thursday, Steve, AC6T, and I were able to bring the W6RFU DXSpider node back to life. It had been inoperative since 3 July. The initial problem was caused by power outages as a result of the Gap Wildfire near Santa Barbara, CA. Once everything was reconnected the node connected to adjacent nodes, and all was operating properly.

There were several SCDXC users of W6RFU, and it is once again available at:

128.111.56.240:7300 -or- ucsbdx.ece.ucsb.edu:7300

73, Bill, N6WS

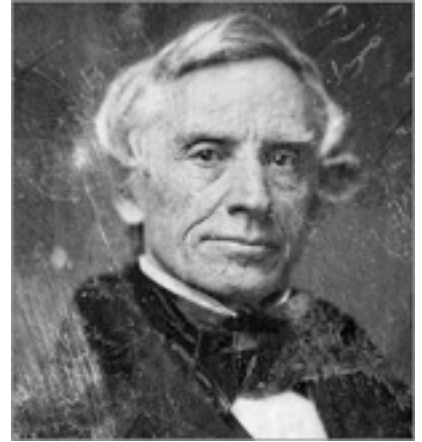
AUGUST HAPPENINGS

2/3 Aug 10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB 0001Z Aug 2 to 2359Z Aug 3
2/3 Aug National Light house Weekend QSO Contest 0001Z Aug 2 to 2359Z Aug 3
7 Aug Branch 02 Committee Meeting - 1930 Hrs
9/10 Aug WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z Aug 9 to 2359Z Aug 10
16 Aug ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint 1500Z - 1800Z

More from ZL Land: Algeria Suspends Use of Bands

From F5NQL it is reported that Mustapha, DL1BDF says Mokthar, 7X5JF told him “the Algerian authorities have cancelled, for an unknown while, the use of the 80 and 17 meter bands and VHF/UHF.”

June 20, 1840, Samuel F.B. Morse receives a U.S. Patent for his dot-dash telegraphy signals, known to the world as Morse



June 20, 1840: A Simple Matter of Dots and Dashes

1840: Samuel F.B. Morse receives a U.S. patent for his dot-dash telegraphy signals, known to the world as Morse code.

The code Morse devised in partnership with Alfred Vail uses a system of dots and dashes to represent letters and numbers. It went into practical use in 1844, after he and Vail produced a working electromagnetic telegraph transmitter. Vail worked on various refinements to the transmitter before leaving the business altogether in 1848, feeling that he was being low-balled on his salary.

Some scholars argue that it was Vail, not Morse, who actually came up with the dot-dash system. He did hold a small piece of Morse's patent but didn't get rich from it. Regardless of who devised it, the original code was a little different than the one in use today. What we recognize as Morse code is actually an international variation of the original, or "American," code.

The American code contained not only dots and dashes, but also spaces in five letters: C, O, R, Y and Z. (C, for example, was rendered like this: . . .) The numbers 0-9 were also different. The international version, known as Modern International Morse Code, was introduced at a conference in Berlin in 1851. The American code remained in widespread use until the 1920s, when everyone finally lined up behind the international version. 1840 was a busy year for Morse. An accomplished, respected painter trained in photography, he opened a portrait studio in New York. Morse had met Louis Daguerre in Paris the previous year, and in New York he taught the daguerreotype process to several photographers -- including Mathew Brady, who put it to pretty good use during the American Civil War. Following a failed run for mayor of New York, Morse turned his attention in earnest to telegraphy. With Vail, he finished up work on the first telegraph transmitter. He spent several years trying to drum up interest in his telegraph, which was met with initial skepticism, both official and unofficial.

When he finally received a patent for the telegraph itself, it came first from the Ottoman Sultan Abdulmecid in Constantinople (now Istanbul), who personally tested it and gave it his blessing. Others, notably Englishmen Charles Wheatstone and William Cooke, had patents on similar (and some say, superior) hardware, but Morse eventually triumphed in the legal battle. His adept promotion, one-wire transmission system and simple software -- the Morse code -- won the day. Morse code has now been in use for more than 160 years. It still has practical applications in the modern world because almost anything can be used, from telegraph key to flashlight to pencil to fingertip, to tap out or flash a message. Severely disabled people even use Morse to communicate, sending out the code by eye movement or puffing and blowing.

Source: Wes Printz (a SCDXC member) ZL3TE/W3SE (ZL1AA AUCKLAND BRANCH 02 NEWSLETTER)

SOS: the signal that has saved thousands turns 100

“Send SOS,” one of the *Titanic*' radio operators supposedly said to another after the famous ship struck that infamous iceberg. “It’s the new call and besides this may be your last chance to send it.” That “new call” is 100 years old today, and people around the world who owe their lives to that piece of Morse code may reflect this morning on its importance.

In the past century, “SOS” has become a firm part of popular culture used in everything from DIY programmed titles to Abba hits. But it began life in a far more serious setting after being adopted by the international community on July 1, 1908, as the globally recognized distress signal for ships at sea. At that time voices could not yet be carried across the airwaves and sailors needed a standard means of saying, in Morse code, that they were in trouble. Until then, the most commonly used distress call was the “CQD” signal, which was open to misinterpretation. After much deliberation, SOS was chosen to replace it because the signal – three dots, three dashes and three more dots – is such a clear message to send in Morse code. There was some early success for the new system a year later when the Cunard liner the *SS Slavonia* was stricken off the Azores. She sent out an SOS and not a single life was lost. Even so, not everybody was convinced instantly, and it took the tragedy of the *Titanic* to reveal just how vital a universal system was.

After the collision in April 1912, the ship's radio operators sent out both the old CQD and the new SOS signals, but some ships in the area ignored both, thinking that they were having a party. They soon learnt otherwise, as international headlines told how Jack Phillips, the *Titanic*'s first radio operator, and 1,500 others had been lost along with the "unsinkable" ship. The new SOS distress signal was rarely ignored after that.

Of course, technology has moved on dramatically since 1908 and only very occasionally are the telltale dots and dashes that have saved countless lives employed today.

From: The Times, July 1, 2008 Fran Yeoman. (ZL1AA newsletter)

WORDS FROM THE PUBLISHER

I have asked for help these past 8 months and until I quit did any one notice. Would you believe that help came from one of the busiest people I know. Dave Bell, W6AQ. Dave has offered to become the Editor and I would do the graphics and Publishing. This will help me greatly as it relieves me the chore of finding articles to print. I hope Dave can stay a while and I offer my most humble THANK YOU. Others like Doc Holub, K6OGO, and Don Minkoff, NK6A, have offered to do some training just in case.



Check it out

W1AW/KL7 QRV: Special event station W1AW/KL7 will be on the air from grid square BP56 July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz.

This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is on July 25 and the RSGB IOTA Contest is on July 26-27. Next weekend, the TARA Grid Dip Shindig and the European HF Championship are on August 2. On August 2-3, look for the 10-10 Int. Summer Contest (SSB), the National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest, the ARRL UHF Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW). The RSGB RoPoCo 2 and the SARL HF Phone Contest are both August 3. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info.



THE OTHER HAMVENTION

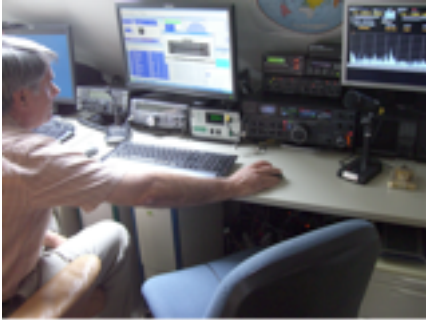
BY DAVE BELL, W6AQ

One of the great benefits of being a ham is the huge number of ham radio conventions, meetings, swapmeets, dinners, lunches, and breakfasts available for eyeball QSOs. The biggest and one of the oldest is of course the Dayton Hamvention. The second biggest is one simply called Ham Radio which is held every year in Friedrichshafen, Germany, on beautiful Bodensee, a lake that on a clear summer's day you can see across to Switzerland and down there at the east end you can spot Austria.

The good news about Friedrichshafen is that the entire affair is held in several interconnecting buildings so it matters not what the weather is. (This year it was beautiful so the interiors were unnecessary, though the air conditioning was appreciated.) The bad news about "Ham Radio" is that it's on the last weekend of June every year – the same weekend as Field Day, one of my favorite contests. The ARRL calls Field Day an "operating event" but I know a contest when I hear one and the fact that it's in the field (usually on a hill) running on emergency power does not keep it from being a contest.

Two of my very good friends, Dick, K6VGP, and Mitch, DJ0QN, leaned on me to make 2008 my year to go to Friedrichshafen, especially since my XYL Sam would spend a couple of days in Munich with me, Mitch, and his XYL, and then take a train down to Florence to see our grandson, Sean, who's leading a bunch of American high school students to culture (a nearly impossible task, I'd guess). When Sam headed to Florence, Mitch and I drove down to Friedrichshafen. The only fly in the ointment (as my mother used to say) was that Dick, K6VGP, the instigator of the trip, couldn't go at the last minute because his significant other had emergency surgery on her knee and he had to stay home and play chauffeur.

After about a 10 hour flight on Lufthansa, Mitch picked Sam and me up at the Munich airport, whisked us to our little hotel right in the center of town, then out to his QTH for further conviviality.



Mitch, DJ0QN, in his uber high tech shack

After an alfresco dinner in a beautiful nearby wooded park, Mitch took us back to the Hotel Stachus so we could sleep off our jetlag. The next day Sam and I took a “hop on hop off” bus tour of Munich, a city we hadn’t been in since 1956. If you’ve never done it, those “hop on hop off” bus tours are great. The following day, Thursday, I got Sam on the train to Florence and shortly thereafter Mitch picked me up and we headed south to Friedrichshafen, a beautiful drive on one of the no-speed-limit autobahns.



This room is bigger than the main exhibit hall at the Hara Arena in Dayton and this is just the entry hall to “Ham Radio ’08.



This is about one third of the main exhibit hall with Fritzel Antennas in the foreground. Do you know Fritzel? I don't know Fritzel. It was one of the many vendors new to me. The vast size of this hall keeps it from being the sardine atmosphere so familiar to us habitués of the Hara Arena. All of the familiar vendors who show up at Dayton are at Friedrichshafen. Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Ten Tec, etc. I was a bit surprised not to find Elecraft there, but they may not need any more orders for their K3 this year.

Beko was here with an impressive line of high power VHF/UHF amplifiers. The very and ultra highs are a much bigger deal in Europe than they are in North America, possibly because it's so easy to work another country on 2 meters or 440 sideband or CW.

Do you know Beko?

I don't know Beko.



Hilberling was here too, not surprisingly, complete with stacks of literature in German and English. Apparently, after several years of promotion and anticipation, their impressive transceiver is about to be delivered.

Hey, Skip!
How's this for a tilt over antenna idea?



European hams must have more portable antennas than we do, judging from all of the portable masts around, both aluminum and fiberglass.

All of the usual organizations who show up at Dayton were at Friedrichshafen, including ARRL, but there were some others as well.

IOTA, obviously a very big deal
in the UK, was here with RSGB



I think the Irish should show up in Dayton
with samples of Guinness draft and several
Irish whiskeys including Jamieson.

It'd be great if the Greeks show up at Dayton with some small
samples of the fabulous olive oil, (for those of us who fancy
themselves cooks). But no Retsina please. We'll save the wine
samples for the French, who also had an exhibit.

The Israelis were there, plus the Slovaks, the Czechs, and the
Italians, who were adjacent to one of the busiest displays:



Begali keys booth was always busy.
Why is it in this age of no code that
the guys who sell Morse keys
and paddles have the most traffic?
Am I missing something here?

I like it.

One of the modest (1 KW) amps on display is one I'd never seen before, the solid state amp that Mitch has in his shack, the Italian, SPE 1K-FA which weighs about 30 pounds and covers 160 through 6 meters



World famous DXers are everywhere. That's Franz, DJ9ZB dead center in this picture behind the half-empty liter of beer, with arkus DL9RCF on the left, then Roger, DL5RBW on the right with my pal Mitch, DJ0QN on the far right.

The flea market was a totally different experience than any I'd ever been to in the USA. In addition to being inside, the stuff for sale ranged from the pedestrian to the exotic. I'd hoped to find a 10 KW Russian amplifier there (just to photograph of course) but no such luck. The biggest one I found was the so-called OM 3500 on the main exhibit floor which advertised an output of 3.5 KW for CW and SSB and 3 KW for the digital modes. Could be, but the LED meter peaked at 5 KW, and it covered all bands from 1.8 to 29.7. It weighed in at 94 pounds and had a 3 year warranty (but only 1 year on the tube). Better be careful tuning this one, God knows what that GU-78b costs to replace! German food is heavy and tasty, the beer is as good as it gets, and the wine...well, the wine is good too, especially if you can get French. Friedrichshafen's on site fast food restaurants had plenty of different wursts, but lots of other dishes as well, winning the culinary competition with Dayton hands down. Of course, after the exhibits closed, everyone headed out to the real gasthouses for some dinner with other DXers and testers.

Was Friedrichshafen worth the trip? You bet. Great fun and more conviviality than I could have dreamed of. If you want to know more about the Hamvention of Europe, ask Bob, N6OX. He was there. He's everywhere these days, have you noticed? He's on the move so much he probably never gets jet lag. And thanks, Bob, for getting Mitch and me into the DX dinner. It's nice to have friends with clout.

END



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